

First named inventor: Heiles
Serial no. 10/027,687
Filed 12/20/2001
Attorney docket no. 10017892-1

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REMARKS

Claims 1-8

Claim 1 is an independent claim, from which claims 2-8 ultimately depend. Claim 1 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa (6,603,506). Applicant has amended claim 1 so that it recites limitations similar to objected-to claim 19, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. In particular, claim 1 now recites that "the contact sheet generation mechanism, in response to determining that a current contact sheet file includes a maximum number of thumbnail images after adding an additional thumbnail image to the current contact sheet file, is to create a new contact sheet file and set the new contact sheet file as the current contact sheet file to which further thumbnail images are to be added." Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 1 as has been amended, such that claims 2-8 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claim 3 is independently patentable, irrespective of the patentability of claim 1. Claim 3 has been amended so that it recites limitations similar to objected-to claim 23, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. In particular, claim 3 now recites that "the contact sheet generation mechanism, in response to determining that one or more of the contact sheet files upon being updated includes one or more empty contact sheet files, is to delete the empty contact sheet files." Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 3 as has been amended.

Claims 9-13

Claim 9 is an independent claim, from which claims 10-13 ultimately depend. Claim 9 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa. Like claim 1, claim 9 has been amended so that it recites limitations similar to objected-to claim 19, which was indicated by

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the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 9 as has been amended, such that claims 10-13 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

Claims 14-16

Claim 14 is an independent claim, from which claims 15-16 ultimately depend. Claim 14 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa. Like claims 1 and 9, claim 14 has been amended so that it recites limitations similar to objected-to claim 19, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 14 as has been amended, such that claims 15-16 are patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

Furthermore, Applicant submits that claim 16 is independently patentable, irrespective of the patentability of claim 14. Like claim 3, claim 16 has been amended so that it recites limitations similar to objected-to claim 23, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 16 as has been amended.

Claims 17-20

Claim 17 is an independent claim, from which claims 18-20 depend. Claim 17 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Ogawa. Claim 19 has been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 19 depends from claim 18, which depends from claim 17. Applicant has amended claim 17 to include the limitations of claims 18 and 19, and has cancelled claims 18 and 19. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 17, and claim 20 that depends therefrom, are now patentable.

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Claim 21

Claim 21 has been cancelled.

Claims 22-23

Claim 22 is an independent claim, from which claim 23 depends. Claim 22 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Aizawa (2002/0063781). Claim 23 has been objected to as containing allowable subject matter, which would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include the limitation of its base claim and any intervening claims. Claim 23 depends from claim 22 directly. Applicant has amended claim 22 to include the limitations of claim 23, and has cancelled claim 23. Therefore, Applicant submits that claim 22 is now patentable.

Claims 24-25

Claim 24 is an independent claim, from which claim 25 depends. Claim 24 has been rejected under 35 USC 102(e) as being anticipated by Aizawa. Like claims 1, 9, and 14, claim 24 has been amended so that it recites limitations similar to objected-to claim 19, which was indicated by the Examiner as containing allowable subject matter. Therefore, Applicant submits that the cited prior art does not anticipate nor render obvious claim 24 as has been amended, such that claim 25 is patentable over the cited prior art for at least the same reasons.

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Conclusion

Applicants have made a diligent effort to place the pending claims in condition for allowance, and request that they so be allowed. However, should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Mike Dryja, Applicants' Attorney, at 425-427-5094, so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible. For these reasons, this application is now considered to be in condition for allowance and such action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,



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Date

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